



Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
lemontahs@sbcglobal.net
www.lemonthistorical.org

Lemont Street Fair September 15 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

We will need volunteers and vendors to make this year's "Fair" a success. All of us together will pull it off! It has become a tradition that welcomes all to an Antique Market, Rummage Sale & Craft Vendors, Bake Sale, Free Kids' Activities, Tours, Food, Music & Fun! "RoadShow" appraisals & more!

Fright Night October 30 G Doors open at 6:30pm. Performances 7:00 p.m.

Join us for tales of the supernatural, and visit the 1860 coffin if you dare! Mr. Mum will be on hand to greet all the ghosts and goblins who enter with a foreboding stare. Refreshments available. Small admission charge.

Scary Story Writing Contest

Blend history with mystery by writing an original scary story based in Lemont. Story should be about 5 minutes long. Winner will receive cash prize and opportunity to read the story on "Fright Nite" on October 30 and witness the reaction of the audience as they hang on every word, glued to their seats, trembling and gasping at the ending.

**Please see insert for details on Sept 25
Lecture at Lewis U. & Reenactment
of Lincoln's Funeral Train Info**

Sept-Nov 2012 Edition

**September 15- Lemont Street Fair
10am-4pm. Volunteers and Vendors
Needed**

**September 25- Gen. Mem. Meet-
7pm. Election Slate Presented**

**October 30 – Fright Nite
Doors open at 6:30pm. Performances
at 7pm.**

NOTICE OF BY LAW CHANGE

**Recommended by Board to be
voted at Sept Gen. Meet Sept 25
Article VI- Executive Board Sect. 1 –
Composition**

**The Executive Board is comprised of
five officers and six directors elected
by the membership.**

**The proposed change increases by two
(2) the number of Directors**

Sect 1 - Composition

**The Executive Board is comprised of
five officers and eight directors elected
by the membership.**

Opening Night - Titanic Exhibit November 27 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us at our membership meeting on November 27 for the premier of a new exhibit in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

President's Message



Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that the summer is over and the kids are back in school! We do look forward to an exciting Fall Season here at the Historical Society. Coming up on September 15th, we have our Annual Street Fair. We hope that you will make an effort to stop by. It is always an enjoyable day! We are again having our Scariest Story Ever Contest for Fright Night and in November, we will be opening our Titanic Exhibit here at the Museum.

On September 7 we will be attending the planning meeting for the Reenactment of the Lincoln Funeral Train and on September 8 we will be volunteering at the "River thru History" The DesPlaines Valley Rendezvous event being held at Concordia Woods in Willow Springs.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at Heritage Fest, especially Uznanski Creations. It was nice to see that the storm didn't dampen everyone's enthusiasm. It also drove people to the Bingo tent! Our July program at Del Rhea's Chicken Basket on Route 66 was great and we are hoping Richard Lanyon will be able to come and to a program here at the Church in the near future.

Take care and hope to see you at the Street Fair! Best regards, Sue

Lemont Area Historical Society

In the Old Stone Church at
306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439
630-257-2972
www.lemonthistorical.org

Museum Hours

10 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Friday
10 am to 1 pm Saturday
1 to 4 pm Sunday

Library Committee

Meets 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesday.
Visits by appointment only.

The main floor of the museum is available for weddings, meetings, and events.

Board of Directors

President Susan Roy
1st Vice President Rose Yates
2nd Vice President Richard Lee
Secretary Susan Donahue
Treasurer Gary Roy

Board Members

Barbara Bannon, John Bushman,
Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman,
Wm. Uznanski

Committees:

Strategic Planning

Gary Roy, Susan Roy

Resource Center

Carol Garibay
Collections, Library, Genealogy,
Oral Histories, Photographs

Community Outreach

Rose Yates
Publicity, Historic Sites

Human & Financial Resources

Fund Raising- Richard Homerding, Grant Writing

Exhibits

Richard Lee

Program

Gary Roy, Susan Roy

Sunday Volunteers

Doris Peterman

Tours

Gail August

Weddings

Carol Garibay, Susan Donahue

Webmaster

Paul Froehle

THANK YOU - We wish to thank Howard Johnson and Gary White for allowing us the privilege of riding in their antique cars in the Keepataw Parade. The cars are always a crowd pleaser and Doris and I really enjoy the ride too. sd

"Joliet: Collecting Memories"

A Lecture at Lewis University

Lewis University History Center presents "Joliet: Collecting Memories" a lecture by Robert Sterling on **Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 2PM** in the Lewis Library Media Room. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the rich history of Joliet, Illinois.

Mr. Robert Sterling is coming to visit Lewis University to present a talk on his deep knowledge of the history of Joliet and its prominent citizens. Mr. Sterling has donated his substantive collection of oral histories to the Lewis University History Center and has come back to Lewis to share with us both the process and the content of his work on local history. Mr. Sterling is the author, among other titles, of *Joliet: Then and Now*, *Joliet: A Pictorial History*, *The Civil War Years*.

ALSO

REENACTMENT OF LINCOLN'S FUNERAL TRAIN

"The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Train"

Susan and Gary Roy, Doris Peterman and myself attended a very interesting and informative presentation sponsored by the Blackhawk Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society at the Gladys Fox Museum in Lockport. Jim Ludwig, railroad buff, also was in attendance. We promised that we would get the word out on this and promote participation in it becoming a reality. It will need cooperation, donations, and time.

The whole idea is recreate the historic Lincoln funeral train, and it's route from Washinton, D. C. to Springfield, IL. This is an undertaking of historic proportions in and of itself. The train cars will be pulled by a steam locomotive and will consist of 4 cars: the funeral car, officers car, and two passenger cars. It has been calculated that it can run 20 miles before it will need to take on water. In our particular area the idea proposed would be that it would stop at Willow Springs and Lockport to take on water. These plans are in the working stages and will require all of the communities participation and agreement. The railroads will also have to sign off on it.

The locomotive name is "The Leviathan." Many questioned the name but were told they wanted something that would invoke a spirit of strength. "Leviathan" is a sea monster referred to in the Bible. In Demonology, the *Leviathan* is one of the seven princes of Hell and its gatekeeper. We did see photos of it in the presentation – a remarkable labor of love.

We would encourage you to learn more about this historic and exciting project and get "All Aboard" for the ride of a lifetime by going to:

www.The2015LincolnFuneralTrain.com

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

Share the Wealth

After spending hours interviewing distant relatives, digging through records, peering through endless microfilm reels, checking numerous genealogy websites, filling notebook after notebook and carefully documenting the information, what do you do with all of it? Share the wealth!

Most genealogists intend to publish their own family history but few ever do. With any luck at all their work is handed over to the one descendant who may have shown a bit of interest in genealogy. They often store it away eventually searching through it years later only to find out that many of the “facts” were filed in a system known only to the author and never shared with anyone.

Waiting for a perfectly completed family history you run the risk that the work you have done will disappear without a trace. If you want to preserve your family history, you need to share it.

Pictures and graphics add a lot of cost to publishing in paper format, so most people have to limit the photographs and documents that they use. The ability to scan documents and photos, as well as add current pictures electronically makes it much more visually pleasing.

Publishing a web site on the internet is inexpensive sometimes even free and many programs or service providers

provide help to get you started. If you are a little more comfortable with the technical requirements, you can register a special domain name and set up a site on your own. Another option is to set up a location through one of the genealogy web sites that house these items free of charge.

Yet a third option is to use a genealogy blog to document your family history. A blog, short for “web log,” is basically an online journal, although a blog can be used to create a more robust genealogy Web site. Blogs provide room for text, photos, and other goodies. You can sign up for an account through a Weblog host.

If your not comfortable with putting your information on the web, or want to share information including data on those still living with only your immediate relatives, creating a ‘web site’ on your computer and burning it into a CD or DVD is the way to go. A number of the Genealogy Programs contain features that provide the diagrams, charts and graphics and help you include sound bites and movies. You can design a nice cover and label, creating very professional looking results.

There are thousands of web sites full of family trees and genealogical information but you want to be careful what you use from the web and what you post on the web. Always document what you know for fact (how you know it!) and what you are only guessing, and why you think it’s true. The best way to preserve your hard work? Don’t be stingy!

**Share your brick walls
also another genealogist may
have the hammer!**

Connecting Branches



The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following new family names being researched:

Patty Quinzi – Researching James Arthur Reeves Family

If you are doing research and would like to contact these or other genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to lemontahs@sbcglobal.net



Mailbox

If you have a general genealogy question or comment please send it via regular mail or email to

lahsgenes2@yahoo.com with “Genealogy Corner Mailbox” in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter.

Lemont Street Fairs



PUCKERVILLE FARMS



HOLY CROSS MIRIMABA BAND



FRIGHT NITE – BOO!!!





SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

Memberships

The Lemont Area Historical Society welcomes renewals of members: James Boldt and Bach Salamani of “**The Vault**” and his donation. We encourage you to stop by and not only see the archival photos on display in this establishment, but enjoy the food and drink.

We would also like to mention “**Sweetwater Deli**” who’s owners also have purchased archival photos from us. We are lucky to have such fine businesses in Lemont and by all of us actively supporting them we can keep our town vital and thriving.

GET WELL WISHES:

Unfortunately we must report that several of our faithful members are on the sick list: Charlene Counter, Toni Blaeser, and Gloria Abboud. We also wish Joanne Pick the best as she recovers.

IN SYMPATHY

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Wend family on the recent death of Karl Wend. He was a first class gentleman.

The family has been a mainstay of our community for so many years starting with the patriarch Emil. The family owned and operated ‘Wend’s’ for many years serving drinks and food. I can still remember the meals and especially the desserts like homemade blueberry pie when my parents and I would go out to dinner there.

CIVIL WAR LASTING EFFECTS

I know we often speak about the aftereffects of the Civil War and how even after all this time the resentment and hurt feelings in some can remain.

The reason I bring this up is that recently I stumbled on something on tv that really set me back.

There is a school in the south that has been operating for 18 years and they have a course in how to be a true Southern Belle. It runs for two weeks. In this particular class of 30 there was someone from the North. The head of the school dresses as a minister and his wife runs the school with him.

They all dress in period costumes of the 1860’s, are taught manners of that time, how to sew, play games, how to bow, dance,(they have recruited young men to help with this part of it.)

I had to keep reminding myself that this was happening now in the 21st Century. They pledged allegiance to the Confederate flag, and sang songs of the South. They were taught the REAL reason the states seceded from the Union even quoting the bible on why.

The acting minister stated that to this day he will not use the penny because of the image on it. He never mentioned the person on the penny, which we all know is Lincoln. He said the President at the time of the War was on the penny.

At the graduation their parents that were interviewed were very pleased at how their daughters had become true Southern Belles. - keeping the traditions and their views of history alive.



*STEPPING BACK IN
TIME*
By Susan Donahue

Here is a continuation of the timeline on the construction of our venerable Post Office:

The Lemont, December 10, 1936

Prepared to rush construction on new Post Office as rapid as weather permits. New construction engineer Elston named recently by U.S. Treasury just arrived and is working at old Post Office (former Brandt Cellars). Engineer Elston succeeds Sandegren, part time supervisor. Workmen engaged in sewers dug through main sewer and made connections which they are extending through solid stone and have most pipes set. Sledging and wedging off 8 inches in order to get depth. In 3 weeks work will start upon the foundation. Little delay unless weather gets cold. New foundation forms arrive December 7.

The Lemont, January 7, 1937

Engineer in charge advised the contractor that it would not be advisable to start the foundation until there is much milder weather. Forms for foundations received and installed. Steel for reinforcement here but no work done. Cement floor has been poured across entire basement accomplished during warm weather. No building operations until foundations are ready for pouring

The Lemont, February 4, 1937 Remarkable progress is being made here despite bad weather all of the excavation done sewer and plumbing installed in subbasement concrete floor of

basement laid – all foundation walls completed to floor laid.

Carpenters are now at work making forms for cement structure which will form the base of first floor level and as weather permits this cement will be poured and construction going to be ready for brick walls. Past few days a fine granite has been received for the window and door space construction and samples are now on display in the basement of interior wall trim lobby and basement floor tile, terra cotta trim and other materials to be used. Side wall wainscoting of the lobby, slabs of beautiful squares of orange, tan, and brown squares mixed with holding cement will be used on the floor of the lobby, same kind as material is laid in large 6in. squares. Basement – small squares of a light colored porcelain cement. Bricks slightly grayish for the walls and terra cotta trim in white.

The Lemont, February 12, 1937

Samples indicate substantial quality of new Post Office

The Lemont, March 4, 1937

New steel vault to be installed and poured

The Lemont, March 18, 1937

Postal employees were looking over a section of one of the steel doors which will be used to separate compartments of the building – thin sheets of metal pressed into proper shape and filled with installation of cork and paper board, casement stone, terra cotta structure cornices and base walls.

Cement floor on first floor completed and side walls started.

Walls are 12inches thick, as is the basement floor built on bedrock.

To be continued next issue.

MUSEUM GARDEN



SUMMER IS COMING TO A CLOSE

The Cornerstone newsletter of the Lemont Area Historical Society, a not for profit organization as set forth by the provisions of the State of Illinois. *Cornerstone* is published six times a year with a circulation of 200 to 300 issues. Issues are mailed to all members of the Lemont Area Historical Society. Complimentary copies are available. Publication offices for Cornerstone are located at 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439. The editor may be contact or writing to the Lemont Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 126, Lemont, IL 60439, or leaving a message at the museum at 630-257-2972. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, although acceptance of copy does not imply that the article will be published. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials see the membership application elsewhere in the newsletter..

Thank You!

We would like to thank the Friendship Garden Club and their President Donna Holous for the great job they do of helping to keep our garden looking so good even with the drought.

Also to our neighbors the Bushmans, and Sean Cummins for helping the Garden Club and us. It is appreciated.

Lemont Area Historical Society Membership

- Student:\$10.00 -----**
- Senior Citizen:\$10.00 -----**
- Individual: \$15.00 -----**
- Family: \$25.00 -----**
- Corporate:\$50.00 -----**
- Life Member:\$200-----**
- Old Quarry Club:\$250.00 -----**
- Friends of Keepataw:500.00 -----**
- Athens Marble Club:\$1,000.00 ----**
- Additional Donation _____**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to:
LAHS
306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS
VILLAGE OF LEMONT
LEMONT TOWNSHIP
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT